

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOVING TOWARDS A HEALTHY START COALITION

SANFORD— The health of babies born in Seminole County is very important. To help families have healthy babies, the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County (DOH-Seminole) along with many of their community partners is moving forward in establishing a coalition for the Healthy Start Program. "Every baby deserves a Healthy Start" is the universal idea that encourages the Healthy Start Advisory Council to create the Coalition.

"Reducing infant mortality is vital in improving the health outcomes of all babies. The collaboration with community partners is an important step to accomplish the goal of reducing infant mortality in Seminole County," said Dr. Swannie Jett, Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County. "I fully support the Healthy Start Program establishing the coalition."

Within this year, the department has worked diligently to establish a community based council with the assistance of their Community Program Manager, Thelisha Thomas. The council continues to grow into a true representation of the community, including the private and public sector, state and local government, health providers, alliances and faith-based groups. A major issue to be addressed is the high infant mortality rate in our racially diverse populations. In 2012, Seminole County's African-American population has an alarming Infant mortality rate of 17.1% per 100 live births which is 2-3 times higher than any other population in the County.

In order to continue creating awareness in the community, the Healthy Start Advisory Council will be participating in the 8th Annual Day of Magical Connection this Saturday, November 16 at Winter Springs High School located at 130 Tuskawilla Road, Winter Springs, Florida. This event allows homeless families in Seminole County to meet with 50 plus community agencies that will provide a variety of services and items to these families in need.

To learn more about the work the Healthy Start Advisory Council does and to join the group please call 407-665-3201.

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